

Atty Docket No.: JCLA5262

Serial No.: 09/535,500

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

Claims 1-9 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamana et al., USPN 5,696,607. Claims 2, 4, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamana et al., USPN 5,696,607, in view of Tsai, USPN 5,959,746. Claims 1-9 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of the rejection to the said pending claims is respectfully requested.

Summary of Applicants' Invention

The Applicants' invention is directed to an installation for increasing the usable scanning range along the axial direction of a light source. The installation includes a linear light source and a light-channeling panel. The linear light source has a light axis whose brightness near the mid-portion is higher than the brightness level on either side. The light-channeling panel is adjacent to the linear light source and is capable of concentrating more light in the end sections rather than the mid-portion of the light axis. The light-channeling panel is made from a plurality of panels, each made from materials having different light transparencies. The light

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transparency of the light-channeling panel near the central section of the light axis is lower than the light transparency at the end sections of the light axis. Hence, after light from the linear light source has passed through the light-channeling panel, a band of light having a more homogenous brightness level than the linear light source is produced.

Response to Rejection Under USC 103(a)

Claims 1, 3, and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamana et al., USPN 5,696,607. The rejection of the independent claims is respectfully traversed.

Yamana et al. discloses an image reader with a light-guiding transparent board.

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's opinion that Yamana et al. teaches the light-channeling panel of the present invention. Part 1 of FIG. 2A of Yamana et al. is a transparent board with similar properties as part 25 of the present invention. According to the passage in col. 7, lines 12-39 of Yamana et al., "...the transparent board 1 makes it possible to suppress the dissipation of light while the light from the light source 3 is traveling inside the transparent board 1..."

The light-channeling panel of the present invention consists of light concentrating sections of

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different properties. This allows more light to be concentrated at the end sections rather than the mid-portion of the light axis. Whereas the teaching of Yamana et al. allows light to pass through a transparent board with consistent properties. It is quite evident that the present invention went away from the teachings of Yamana et al. by utilizing panels with different properties to enhance the scanning range of scanners when Yamana disclosed the benefits of a transparent board with consistent property.

The Examiner asserted that "one of ordinary skill in the art would have expected the Applicant's invention to perform equally well with the light-channeling panel and CCD of Yamana et al. because both perform the same function of providing a more homogenous brightness level and image detection so a scan image is formed."

The difference between the transparent board 1 of Yamana et al. and the light-channeling panel is quite evident from both the descriptions and the diagrams. It would be unlikely that a transparent board without the specific three-panel composition of the light-channeling panel of the present invention would be nearly as effective in providing homogenous brightness level. This novel feature of the present invention indeed shows that the prior art made of record does not teach the light-channeling panel of the present invention and therefore Applicant assert that

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independent claims 1, 3, and 8 are in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, all dependent claims of independent claims 1, 3, and 8, are further limitations upon a base claim, as such Applicant assert that dependent claims 2, 4-7, and 9 are also in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection of pending claims 1-9 is hereby respectfully requested.

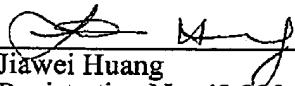
CONCLUSION

For at least the forgoing reasons, it is believed that pending claims 1-9 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date: 4/14/2003

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